LITERATURE.

Rambaud's Russian History-American Art.

BAYARD TAYLOR'S POEMS.

Notes and Gossip from the Book World---Boys' Holiday Stories.

RAMBAUD'S "HISTORY OF RUSSIA."

It was to be expected that so good a work as M. A. Ramband's "History of Russia" should, particularly after its translation into English and publica tion in London, be republished in this country. That it should be issued by Estes & Lauriat, Boston, uniform with their large histories of France and England, is to secure it a handsome and careful presentation. The English translation by Leonora B. Lang is followed; it is enriched by a number of careful illustrations, among them a number of portraits on steel, and the story, brought down to 1877 by M. Rambaud in the original French, is con tinued through the Russo-Turkish struggle by Mr. Nathan Haskell Dole for the American edition. The work is issued in parts, and will make three volumes when completed. Of these the first volume carries the narrative down to the advent of the Romanoffs in the seventeenth century, when modern Russian history really begins, although Terrible-had really shown Russia approaching its modern geographical shape and political unity a century and a half earlier. We reviewed the entire work in the English edition last March, and need not, therefore, repeat the process now; but we wish to remark the especially good feature of this first volume of a really valuable history. We refer to the opening chapters descriptive of the geography, tography, climatology and ethnography of aucient and modern Russia. They are masterly in grasp, show, as the whole work does, wide and careful re search, and are so clearly posed that they can be without difficulty understood by a beginner. The French have this art in perfection, and M. Rambaud, young as he is for a historian-he was born in 1842—is a master of it. The translation is well done. We do not think that the American editor's professed enthusiastic belief in the coming adoption of the metric system should be held to excuse the retention of its use in the translation without at least giving in each case the equivalent in Euglish measurement. On page 47 the author, speaking of the reappearance of the names originally belonging to places in the Russia of Kieff in the other Russia of Muscovy and Suzdal, says:-"Is it not thus that in America the Dutch founded New York?" Is New Amsterdam unknown in Boston? The work, how ever, is by far the best "History of Russia" now in the English language.

BAYARD TAYLOR'S POEMS.

Mr. G. H. Boker, who writes the preface to Houghton & Osgood's new household edition of The Poetical Works of Bayard Taylor," brings us the rather surprising intelligence that the late Mr. Taylor's great aim was to be a poet. "To this," says Mr. Boker, "all other efforts and all other ambitions were subjected as vassals to a sovereign; and to success in which he gave more thoughtful labor, and held its fruits in higher esteem than all the world and all the other glories thereof." Surely such extravagant, not to say confused effusiveness, is injudictous. The good wine of the late Mr. Taylor's verse does not need Mr. Boker's bush or gush. Good it is, it is not the best part of Mr. Taylor's work. We are willing, however, to admit that it was Mr. Taylor's pet avocation. Mr. Boker, who speaks of the bustling, expansive, sturdy Mr. Taylor as though he were only saved from "a crust of cynical misanthropy" by his poetical tendencies, is surely mistaken in the source of his friend's buoyancy, however correct he may be in describing the depressing influences that beset Mr. Taylor in business Among these, says Mr. Boker, was coming "into daily contact with stupidity, ignorance, grossness and with the consequential vulgarity of conceited dolts." Mr. Boker, as one of those "who knew him intimately," may think this a good description of the people Mr. Taylor was in the habit of meeting. and we have no doubt he thinks it a piece of "fine writing," but what will Mr. Taylor's other friends and associates say of such wholesale admissions? For their sake, and guided as well by general report, we shall venture to deny the imputation. In good truth Mr. Boker has written a very bad preface, full The omission of several long poems is noted, but we see no note or reason why one of the best pieces of satire Mr. Taylor ever wrote—his blank verse critique in perfect Browning style, of Browning's "Inn Album"-is left out.

save that he is not in the first rank. He was too many-sided for that. He travelled, edited, lectured, diplomatized, wrote plays and novels and trave books, and in not one of these walks was he in the first rank, though excellent in all. As a traveller one would imagine he could describe things in postry as they met his gaze. He did so fairly, yet not finely—that is, minutely—in prose; in verse, however, he was generally looking at his experiences, as well as his imaginings, through the eyes of other poets. This is why he is difficult to place. He was always passing under the influence of poets more original than himself, and as he anged mind-masters changed style, form and choice of subject. In his earliest days he was a blithe ballad singer of strong voice, like Scott; then stray breaths of Byron and warm, sensuous pulsings from Moore; then came the Tennyson era, which lasted longest; then the Rossetti era, the Goethe era, the Morris era. Swinburne was modified by Browning in the mysticism of his later days. Perhaps in his search for expression he found it too fatally easy to adopt the latest measure, and then buffeted with his poetic wings to try to escape the tolls. This change of masters resulted in strange surprises. It is what makes final judgment difficult; but in this volume, open it where you may, a masculine mind is found in whose varied utterances many noble thoughts, much vigorous fancy and capable craftsmanship of verse unite to charm or to interest.

ART IN AMERICA.

An attractively prepared volume is S. G. W. Benjamin's "Art in America" (Harper Brothers), which is a reprint of the series of articles which have recently appeared in their magazine and to which we have given attention at different times. The numerous and in general admirably engraved illustrations deserve again a word of praise. Among those which have been added are one of Vanderlyn's "Ariadne" and examples of recent illustrating work by Messrs, Fredericks, Pyle, Reinhart, Abbey, Gibson and Miss Curtis. In his preface Mr. Benjamin says that it is from no lack of appreciation of their talents that he has apparently neglected mention of the American artists resident in foreign capitalslike Bridgeman, Duveneck, Wright, Neal, Bacon, Benson, Ernest Parton, Millet, Whistier, Dana, Blashfield, Miss Gardner, Miss Conant and many others who have done credit to American genthetic culture. It would, he says, have carried the work beyond the limits of the plan adopted. An exception, he explains, has been made in the case of our sculptors, because they have so uniformly lived and wrought in Europe. Why, then, is Miss Cassatt favored with an illustration and a mention? The slip in one of the magazine articles, which alluded to J. Oyden Wood as "J. Ogden Brown," should have certainly been corrected in the present work.

A VAGARY OF TWO CONTINENTS.

Mr. Hinton Rowan Helper, who has been so long In eclipse, again breaks through the bars of oblivion to, if possible, startle his countrymen. When in the ante-bellum days he emerged from obscurity with his "Impending Crisis of the South" in his hands he was not destined to be allowed to pass away in silence. Great was the roar of the North over his book, which recommended to his fellow. Southerners the total abolition of slavery, and deep was the howl of the south at such a preposterous

proposition. Taking up his latest book we felt inclined to ponder whether he could call out again such vehemence of support and opposition. Aias, no! We are not living in a seething time. No Seward will rise in Congress to applaud Mr. Helper; no Wolfe, of Virginia, with a cloud of leader writers and pamphoteers, will call him a "vile wretch" or other epithet indicative of extreme disapproval. He cannot strike the same exciting note again. Indeed, the name of his book, "Oddments of Andean Diplomacy," has a queer, far-away sound. It may be descriptive of the book; but we doubt it, for this he states is to encourage the building of a double steel-track railroad from Hudson's Bay to the Straits of Magellan, as a means of regenerating the benighted peoples of South America. This road, he tells us, has occupied his mind since November, 1866, but it is still too much for him, and he alleges that he offers \$5,000 for five essayists to help him out. One thing be has determined on-namely, that Brazil is to be avoided by his great railroad. Brazil must look out. Long disser. ations about a claim or two against Brazil and Bolivia occupy nineteen-twentieths of his book. These perhaps are what he calls "oddments," and they leave us in doubt whether the claims have got into the railroad or the railroad has run off the track among the claims. Thinking for thirteen years over his scheme has perhaps resulted, as it did in the case of Mister Dick in "David Copperfield," that he cannot keep the King's head out of

"THE STAGE DOOR."

"The Stage Door" is the title of George Routledge & Son's Christmas annual, and the stories it contains are told by those who enter at that mysterious portal. The names of these persons are among the most distinguished of their profession in England, Mrs. Bancroft tells a protty story about a broken necklace. Mr. Henry Irving tells of his first experience as a public reader, which was very different from his last. Not a single person came and he was obliged to shut up the hall and go home. Henry Neville tells the "True Story of a Benefit;" H. J. Byron discusses "Landladies," among whom he seems to have had a wide experience. Palgrave Simpson writes of a night with Kotzebue and Mr. Bancroft tells a curious story of "Our Doubles," persons bearing such a striking likeness to himself and wife that unpleasant mistakes are being constantly made. Arthur Matthison delivers the 'Wail of a Banner Bearer' and Mr. W. S. Gilbert tells a powerful story of "Comedy and Tragedy," which he reserves the right to dramatize. Toole writes of a pair of gloves and George Goldsmith, Jr., writes of a pair of trousers. Barney Sullivan tells of a murder in New Orleans and Mrs. John Wood relates a travelling adventure in connection with the same city. Herman Merivale contributes a French song and Charles Warner, the here of Reade's "Drink," gives an account of his first engagement. The epilogue is written by H. Saville Clarke. These stage door people have made a light and readable little volume.

LITERARY CHIT-CHAT.

Scotch parsons have quite a mania for taking in a little editing in addition to their clerical work. "A Fool's Errand" is the name of a somewhat tiresome story of the late civil war, published by Fords, Howard & Hurlbert.

The sixteenth edition of Captain William Thoms 'Practical Navigation," for the prevention of disaster at sea, has just been issued from the press. "Chatterbox Junior" is the title of a child's story

pook, with illustrations by H. Weir, issued by the usual number of intelligent animals, adventurous boys and good girls.

"Women's Husbands" (Lippincott & Co.) is a book containing three stories, each of which is a rather clever study of a typical husband. The work is put forth anonymously. It seems to us rather superflu-ous to talk of "women's" husbands when there is

The Fine Art Publishing Company, of this city, have issued in excellent quarto form "The Doré Bible Gallery," which contains 100 good reproductions of his well known illustrations, each accompanied by a page of explanatory letter press. There is a very short sketch of the artist and a fairly executed portrait, reproduced from a pen drawing, which, according to our recollection, is a good like-

Russian journalistic notes :- The sale of the Novee Vremya is reported to have reached 50,000 copies, which is the largest circulation in Russia. The sale of the Golos is said to be under 40,000 a day, while that of the Moscow Gazette scarcely reaches half that number. The St. Petersburg journal, Norosti, is rapidly rising into taver as a paper publishing early and reliable administrative news. It was the first of its contemporaries to disclose the terms of the Kuldja Treaty, and has repeatedly of late signalized

An interesting addition to the history of the Bonapartes is "Bonaparte's Park and the Murats," It contains an account of the life led by the Emperor's cien Murat, at Bordentown, N. J. This is by no means the first time the subject has been treated of in print, but, if we mistake not, it has never before en honored by presentation in book form. Major E. M. Woodward is the author. It has two engravings, one representing Joseph Bonaparte in the royal robes of Spain, the other giving a view of the park

and river side, as they looked some sixty years ago.
"The Boy Travellers in Japan and China" (Harper Brothers) is one of those sumptuous books for the young which only great publishing houses can bring out at a price within ordinary reach. The necro-mancy by which Mr.T.W. Knox was enabled to write so pleasant and instructive a book of Oriental travel may be gleaned from the fact that in addition to his own experience in the East he had full command of the great stock of wood engravings of his publishers in whose books and periodicals China and Japan have frequently figured. Strung together on a light story of two boys whose parents allow them to travely the youth will learn of the arts, manners and civilization of these interesting countries while kept mildly interested in the fortunes of Frank and Fred.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED.

Through Winding Ways. A Novel. By Elion W. Olney.
J. B Lippincott & Co., publishers.
A Foot's Errand. By one of the Foots. Fords, Howard
& Hutbert, publishers, New York.
The Hiustrated Catholic Family Annual for 1880. From
the Catholic Fublication Society, New York.
The Struggle for Law. By Dr. Rudolph von Hering.
Translated from the German by John J. Laior. Callaghan
& Co., publishers, Chicago.
Acting and Oratory. Designed for public speakers,
teachers, actors, &c. By J. E. Frobisher, with illustrations. From the College of Oratory and Acting, New York.
Children's Treasury of Bible Stories. Part II.—The New
Testament. By Mrs. Horman Gaskoin. Edited by Rev. G.
F. Macioar, D.D. Macmilian & Co., publishers, London
and New York. and New York.

Sahara and Sudan. Erzebbisse Sechajahriger reisen in Aferika. Von Dr. Gustav Nachtigal. First volume, Weidmanuche Buchlandung, Berlin.

He North Americans of Antequity. Their origin, migrations and types of civilization considered. By John T. Share.

Share. Share Connedy of the Winters Tale. Edited, with notes, by William J. Rolfe, A. M., with engravings. Hare of A Breithers, publishers. oung Mrs Jardine, A Novel. By the author of "John intak, Gentleman," &c. With Highermans. Harper &

latitas, Gentleman," &c. With Illustrations. Harper & frothers, publishers.
Studies of the Greek Poets. By John Addington Sysonias. 2 vols. Harper & Brothers, publishers.
Franklin Square Library.—Miss Braddon's Mistletoe lough for Christians. 1879. High Spirits, Beling Certainters written in Them. By James Paya. Harper & teathers, maintainers. ories Written in Them. By James Pays. Harper & others, publishers.
The Letters of Charles Dickons. Edited by his sister-inw and his essent daughtur. 2 vols. Charles Scriuner's ns, publishers. New York. Incology and Mythology. As Inquiry into the claims of olical mapiration and the supernatural in religion. By fred H. O'Denoghue. Charles P. Somerby, publisher. New York.

Appleton's New Handy Volume Series.—Vivian the leauty. By Mrs. Annie Edwardes. D. Appleton & Co., auditalers, New York.

BOSTON BOOKS.

NEW VERSES-OLD TIME REMINISCENCES-WAR RECOLLECTIONS-ENGRAVERS AND REVIEW-

BOSTON, Nov. 22, 1879. Volumes of verse seem to come in couples this season, and two new rhymed claimants of attention appear to-day in the shape of "Her Lover's Friend," by Norah Perry, and "Dramatic Persons and Moods," by Mrs. Sarah M. B. Piatt. The former book shows a great change in the author's manner since her first volume, "After the Ball," published four or five years ago. She always had the trick of melody, and long ago she could sketch a little romance very prettily in rhyme, but she has become so dramatic that her verses have a fire now that was quite strange to them in the old days; and although she writes much more than she used she writes better. "Lady

Wentworth," "The Rebel Plower" and "Bunker Hill in 1875," the best poems written by any woman on the themes that were popular at the time of the Centennial, are in this book, and also the widely copied "King's Kiss" and "Barbara;" but the best things are "A Tramp," a character study, and "Her Lover's Friend," the title poem. This is a carefully wrought delineation of the feelings of an honorable man who loves his friend's betrothed, who knows that he could win her love, but who will not tell his

passion.

For what new bliss I might inspice Could shield her from the accrehing free Cloud shield her from the accrehing free Of ferce remorse, whose withoring flame Would cast a blight of ban and blashe Upon her tender woman's heart. That no new passion and so art. That I possessed could were quite Remove, and leave her life as white And clean as in the days before We met.

Those verses are something remarkable for woman to write in these days, when most women's roines leave two or three broken engagements behind them on their way to the altar. Mrs. Piatt's book has three divisions, "Dramatic Persons and Moods," "Double Quatrains" and "With Children." The first is the best, the second being too slight and the last a little too fine drawn here and there. There are few women as fearless as Mrs. Platt, few who have the artistic frankness not to feet the sentiment that Reade's Italian girl expresses by asking "Aren't you ashamed? Telling the men everything?" Mrs. Platt does tell everything as pittlessly as Brown-

you ashamed? Telling the men everything?" Mrs, Platt does tell everything as pitilessly as Browning himself, and "A Wall Between" and "A Pique at Parting" might almost have been written by him. "Two in Two Worlds," "A Lesson in a Picture" and "After the Quarrel," are also fine, each in its own way.

Mr. W. J. Linkon's "Practical Hints on Wood Engraving," which is to be published next week by Lee & Shepard, are, apparently, given for the express delectation of three or four gentlemen, who have volunteered to defend the Hustrators of Scribner's Magazine against some attacks which Mr. Linton made on them. "My Reviewers," "Noble Simplicity," "Facsimile," "White Lane," "Mechanism and Art," "Photography on Wood" and "Further Hints" are the titles of the chapters. In closing, Mr. Linton says that he "has but to sit down and patiently await the scalping knives of the pursuers," and he will probably not have to wait long after the appearance of his book. Engraving is so intimately blended with the mystic wonderful thing known as Art with a very large "A" that few men can talk about it without losing their tempers, or can find them after having lost them, and this book is probably not the last which Mr. Lanton's article in the June Attantic will cause. It is a battle of "schools."

AN OLD FASHONED LADY.

"The Autobiography and Leiters of Mrs. Delany" is an abridgement of the rare and elegant book published by Eontley in 1861, and has been skirully edited for american readers, all the uninteresting matter having been eliminated, and everything having been retained that throws light on the manners of Mrs. Delany's time or enables one to understand her character or that of her sister, Mrs. Dewes, and of her friend, the Duchess of Portiand. The letters are charming and womanly, dealing with dress and needlework and weddings, as pleasant women's letters always do, but rising in tone whenever the occasion denands it and showing the fineness of the mind and the nobility of spirit that won the respect of every one from George II

Some of her reveiations about dress will cheer the hearts of men who think that their wives are extravagant. Queen Caroline's coronation petiticoat, decorated with jewels worth £2,400,000, rather surpasses the gorgeousness of modern royal attire, and Mr. Spencer's indulgence in shoebuckles worth £30,000 seems a proof that the men were as lavish of money as the women. The first suit in which Mrs. Spencer went to Court "was white and silver, as fine as brocade and trimming could make it; the second, blue and silver; the third, white and gold and colors, six pounds a yard; the fourth, plain pine colored satin." Bad taste was occasionally visible, as, for instance, in the case of Lady Scarborough, who wore "violet colored satin, the potticoat embroidered with clumsy featons of nothing at all's, supported by pillars no better than posts, the gown covered with embroiderey, a very unmeaning pattern." The Duchess of Queensbury wore a white satin petticoat bordered around the lower edge with "brown hills, and every hreaath had an old stump that run (sic) up almost to the top of the petticoat, broken and ragged and worked with brown chenille round which twined nastersians (sic), ivy, honeysuckle, periwinkles, convolvuluses and all sorts of twining flowers, which spread and covered the petticoat, and vines with the leaves variegated as you have seen them by the sun, all rather smaller than nature, which mikes them look very light; the robings and facings were little green banks with all sorts of weeds, and the siceves and the rest of the gown loose twining hranches of the same kind as those on the petticoat; many of the leaves were finished with gold and part of the stumps or the trees looked like the gilding of the sun." The American embroidery lever has not yet been accompanied by any such serious manifestations as this gown, but its like may appear before the Decorative Art ladies finish their work. Mrs. Delany and her friends began modestly, but ended by producing this astounding garment.

"The Breaking Waves Dashed High," Lee & Shepard's Christmas book, is much better than those previously issued by the firm. The paper and press work have always been good, but the pictures have been rather unequal in strength, some being decidedly weak. This year nearly all are exceedingly good, and some of the sea views and the strong, lovely face that illustrates the fourth stanza are excellent.

"New Seventh Regiment Armory Walizes." By Clifford Putnam. R. A. Saalfield, publisher. A timely composition, as bright as the bayonets of this crack" regiment. There is always a certain amount of originality in Mr. Putnam's pieces, and this one is no exception to the rule. For band or piano these waitzes will be found effective.
"Pearl Schottische." By J. P. Meder. Published

by Brentano's Literary Emporium. A capital piece of music for dancing purposes.

"Coming," Song. By George S. Osgood. Dedicated to Miss Clara Louise Keilogg. Published by Oliver Ditson & Co., Boston, who publish all of the following. We have no more thoughtful song writer than Mr. O good, and he has put some of his best work into this composition. The sentiment of the

"My Ludy." Song by the same composer. Remarkably good and exceedingly dramatic. "Largo," from Handel's "Xerxes," as played by Thomas' orchestra. This grand composition is arranged for plane and organ, but is better suited to

the latter instrument, "Turkish Reveille." By Th. Michaelis. A simplified arrangement of the piece which has succeeded the "Sweet By and By" at the theatres, and which would never have been written but for Beethoven's "March from the Ruins of Athens."
"Garrison." Song with chorus. Music by F.

Boott. The patriotic intentions of this song are more evident than its musical qualities; still, if sung by one who understands it, it might not be so bad. Sans Formalité Lancers." By John J. Pond. Dedcated to the young ladies of Rutgers College. This lacks the elements of popularity belonging to the old Lancers. The fifth figure, the lady's chain, is

"Douglas Tender and True," Words by Miss Muloch, Music by W. F. Sudds. There is a very pretty sentiment in this song and the melody is

"Spring Violets." By Harry N. Sawyer. This is number one of the "Sesson Series," and is a simple composition calculated to give satisfaction to the beginner, because it is a "piece" and requires no

great mastery of the plane for its performance.
"Slumber Song." By W. F. Sudds. For plane. A pretty and southing slumber song. "Alone." Com-posed and sung by Frederick D. Jewett. A doleful ballad, as one may judge from the opening lines, written by E. V. Welch:-"Forlorn, unhappy and alone, without one ray of light to cheer." The poor wretch's case seems desperate, for even the flowers are "blasted, wan and sere," and "the pale moon sheds her silv'ry light on broken heart and lonely publish an admirable edition of that bewitching opera, "Carmen," and a "new, enlarged and revised edition" of Eichberg's "Doctor of Alcantara." Amateurs will find this latter capital for parlor producTHE RELIGION OF ASTRONOMY.

INFLUENCE OF THE OBSERVATION OF THE HEAVENLY BODIES ON HUMAN BELIEF-LEC-TURE BY PROPESSOR PROCTOR.

Professor Richard A. Proctor delivered last night at Chickering Hall a sacred lecture on "The Religion of Astronomy." He began by showing how inti-mately ancient superstitions were connected with observations of astronomical phenomena. He showed how these superstitions were gradually de-stroyed by the advancing light of science, but in their place was substituted a much more religious

veneration and awe for the Omnipotent Creator.

The ancient astronomers were regarded in the light of priests and prophets by the common people, and thus obtained an immense control over their minds and actions. This control, he said, would have been easy for astronomers to retain if they had not been honest. Our commonest observances had an astronomical origin. The present day with us is Sunday, the very name of which indicates its deri vation. Formerly every day in the weel was influenced by the different heavenly bodies Thus the sun stood for Sunday, the moon for Monday, Mars for Tuesday, Mercury for Wednesday, Jupiter for Thursday, Venus for Friday and Saturn for Saturday. In this same order the planets were supposed to have control over the different hours of the day. Some time must have elapsed before man began to take notice of the year, but the week must have been vely early noticed, as the different phases of the moon divided naturally into four weeks. Each planet, at first regarded as a god, came to be looked upon as under the influence of the various deities. Friday for the past four or five thousand years had been regarded as an unfortunate day for starting on journeys, and this supersti-tion had great influence oven at the present day. During the war with the King of Dahomey an English vessel had been propared all ready to sail on Thursday night, but the authorities thought best to delay her departure one day rather than have the ship start on Friday with the idea in the minds of all the sailors that some great misfortune would happen to her. The planet Saturn, a gloomy, slow

all the sailors that some great misfortune would happen to her. The planet Saturn, a gloomy, slow moving orb, was also regarded as unlucky, and to do any work on Saturn's day was thought to be unfortunate. This was the beginning of the ancient observation of the Sabbath. Many of the ancient sacrifices were in connection with astronomical phenomens. Thus the Passover was celebrated at the time when the sun passes over the Equator, at its rising node from north to south. A similar celebration might have been expected in the fall, when the sun again crossed the line, and thus we find that the fifteenth day of the seventh month was similarly celebrated. It was natural enough for the Jews, who lived so long among the Egyptians, to become accustomed to these observations. Moses, however, carefully kept from the people the astronomical character of the feasts, and gave them a purely religious significance.

THE PLANETS AND THEIR DOMAINS.

The planets, as the only moving bodies, were supposed to have the only volitional power, while the constellation among which they moved were regarded as their domains. Near the North Pole was the constellation Dragon, spreading over nearly one-third of the heavens, and by the precision of the equinoxes the succionts observed that it was gradually changing its place. Hence the old tradition of of the Dragon leaving his place in the heavens and carrying with it one-third of its inhabitants. Then there was the figure of Hercules, or Adam, with his foot placed on the head of the Dragon. Then the second Adam, represented by Serpentarius strangling the serpents. Then there was the figure of a man bearing sacrifice and placing it on the altar. From this altar there were a number of bright stars in the Milky Way, rising, as Manilius describes, "just like smoke from an altar." In this part of the Milky Way, too, there was the rainbow represented by the bow of Sagitarius. In old times, therefore, there was not so much a religion of astronomy as that in many nations astronomy itself was conside

sout the royal and are resulted of Queen white contrary to Muse. D'Arbay's related of Queen was another expensed to a display the contrary to Muse. D'Arbay's related of Queen was another expensed to a state of the sun's glory and the was an another expensed to a state of the sun's glory and the sun's glory state of the sun's glory and the sun's glory state of the sun's remote future, the giant planets, Jupiter and Saturn, showed even more clearly the remote past. The period of Jupiter, from its first formation to the time at which he would be capable of supporting life the Professor put at 3,500,000,000 years. Certain appearances of Saturn, such as the rings around him, showed that he was even younger than Jupiter in planet life. No man with a competent power of reasoning could rail to recognize a purpose in the creation. The great danger lay in attempting to fix what that purpose was. Man, with his limited powers, could not hope to solve the problem of the planets. It was sufficient that we should find out something of the apparent nature of these things. As to the purposes that underlay them it was useless to protend to speak. The sun and the system circling sround it was the one part of the universe that man could be said to understand. Beyond this were the stells depths, the stars all being sums in some degree resembling our own. Sirius, for instance, if it presented the same inherent lustre as the surface of our sun, must be fully eight thousand times greater in volume. Of six hundred stars measured by the astronomer Seechi about three hundred appeared to be of a higher order than our sun, 150 about the same character and the remainder smaller than the sun. In order to have some idea of the distance between these suns regard should be hadte the comets which pass from star to star in periods that could not be less than ten millions of years. In regard to distance our sun, exceeding the earth by 1,250,000 miles, was as the mercant point compared with the orbit of his most distant planet. Neptune. The space of 3,000,000,000 miles was an nothing as compared to the distance that separated by these timeses unable distances, and beyond them other galaxies and systems, the universe continually widening and widening. Just as with the naked eye we could see but a small portion of the stars discoverable by telescopic means so man had no right to suppose that any instrument that he

JOINED THE ISLAND CHOIR.

Ellen O'Reilly discordantly sang short snatches from "The Little Widow Dunn" as she staggered into the Tombs Court yesterday and was guided into the female prisoners' box. The policeman, in whose charge she was, had found her dreaming in the gutter with an empty sods bottle clasped tightly in

gutter with an empty sods bottle clasped tightly in her hand. Mrs. O Beilly was good naturedly drunk when arratgned before the Justice, but the latter, as he noticed the twitchings of the muscles of her face, asked, "What are you crying for?"

"I'm larin', Y 'Onor."

"Then you are in a good humor?"

"Phat a foine guesser ye are. Divil a better humor could I be in than phat I am in."

"You have been very drunk, Ellen?"

"Yas, sor, very," and she sang "Whiskey You're Me Darlin'," in a shrill voice.

"Keep quiet," asid the Court, sternly.

"Excuse me, Y 'Onor, I was training fur the Island choir."

"You'll have a month to practice, Mrs. O'Reilly."
"Not half enough. The winther's comin' on, an

"Not mair enough. Ine winter's comin on, an look at me."
She was thinly clad and ragged.
"Yes, that's so. Six months."
"God bless you," she said, and left the court room singing. "Whin the coorn is wavin', Annie dear" in a topmost troble.

WHO IS THE OWNER?

Car Detective Reynolds, of Inspector Dilks' squad, on Saturday evening noticed a spruce young man sitting among the passengers in a Grand street car He thought he recognized in him "Poodle" Murphy, He thought he recognized in him "Poodle" Murphy, for whom, it is said, several out of town constables have been inquiring of late. He was at once put under arrest, and a pocketbook was found on him which was laid on the magistrate's dosk at the time of his arraignment. It contained some gold and silver coin, paper currency of a low denomination and some railroad tickets. It was reserved to see if an owner would appear for it who would serve as complainant, and the prisoner, who gave the name of lionry Whiliams in Court, was remanded.

THE POISONED PIE.

Disclosures at the Post-Mortem on Mr. Wheeler's Body.

TOXICAL EFFECTS ON THE STOMACH.

Exhaustion and Death Resulting from Paralyzed Digestion.

Deputy Coroner David B. Miller yesterday made an autopsy of the remains of Mr. George Wheeler, of No. 413 West Forty-third street, whose death is supposed to have resulted from eating a portion of a néringue pie, purchased by his mother at an Eighth wenue bakery, and, as a result of the examination found that death was produced by irritation of the intestinal tract and exhaustion, presumably result-ing from it. Gastritis was found to be well defined, and the irritation was such as to render it impossible for him to have taken nutriment and retained it upon his stomach in sufficient quantities to sustain life, so that, in point of fact, substituting ordinary language for medical phraseology, Mr. Wheeler starved to death in the midst of plenty, being unable to take food on account of the terrible irritation in, above and below his stomach.

The story of his sickness and death, and the sickness of his mother, his sister and his cousin, was told exclusively in the HERALD yesterday, and it is fair to say that few recent events have startled the community to such an extent. The terrible nature of the disease and the way in which it was con tracted brought home to every reader the sense that the accident might have happened in exactly the same manner to himself. Besides this, a wide circle of friends of Mr. Wheeler's family were shocked and pained to learn, as many of them did learn for the first time, of the calamity that had befallen a family so well known and so highly esteemed. All day long a stream of visitors came to the door to express their condolence and to inquire as to the ondition of the survivors. Only a very few of the most intimate friends were admitted to the house of mourning, some one of the sons of the house meeting the others at the door. Over and over they told the circumstances of the case, and reiterated the fact that their mother and cousin were pro-nounced out of danger, but that their sister's condition was still critical.

In the afternoon the black wagon of an undertaker stood near the door, and inside the house two men were making ready for the autopsy. It was thought by Mr. B. C. Wheeler, Mr. George Wheeler's father, that the Coroner's inquest would be formally begun, and he had secured the presence of a few whom he desired to serve on the jury, and had sent to Dr. William White, of No. 143 West Forty-fifth street, asking him to be present also. Dr. White was there when Deputy Coroner Miller arrived, a little after half-past four o'clock, and remained an interested

witness of the autopsy.

The cosey little dining room in the basement of the house was crowded to overflowing when the body was brought in and Dr. Miller bean the examination. He made no research beyond the intestinal tract, being satisfied from Dr. Purdy's statements that no disorder of any kind existed elsewhere. This tract, however, he examined with great care, finding traces of very intense inflammation throughout. The organs besides those examined he declared from observation to be in good condition, and the cause of death was plainly apparent from the tines, including the stomach, he wrapped up for removal, saying that he should take the proper steps moval, saying that he should take the proper steps to procure an analysis, although he thought it very doubtful if the irritant substance, whetever it was, could be detected, because of the lapse of time between the swallowing of it and the death of the patient. "My impression is," he said to a Herazip reporter, "that nothing will be discovered in the stomach, and that there will be no proof to connect the death with the eating of the pic that has been supposed to have caused the death. But, of course, we must do all that we can to establish the connection if there was one."

received it from Mr. Wheeler. It had been thrown into the ash barrel, and he got it for me at my request."

"Mr. B. C. Wheeler thereupon identified the piece as the one which he had given to Dr. White, saying that it had been smashed flat by having a plate set on it and had then been thrown out by himself. When Dr. White asked him for it he had gone for it at once and recovered it from the ash barrel. He was positive that it was a piece of the pie that had been partly eaten by his family on Sunday, November 16. Dr. Miller thereupon took it for analysis. He said very little in reply to questions as to the probability of the poison in the pie lif there was any) being verdigris, but after reiterating the statement that no connection was yet established between the death and the eating of the pie, he said that if it had been prepared in a copper vessel it would be easy to see how acetate of copper might be formed, which would, if swallowed, account for the symptoms accompanying Mr. George Wheeler's sickness. Copper, he said, if exposed to the action of any soil—and he specified lemon juice—would, if exposed to the art, form acetate of copper. He said he had made no effort to see Schinkel, the baker at whose cetablishment the pie is said to have been bought, as he saw no use in talking with him. 'Schinkel is there and he is not going to run away, I presume. If we wint him we can find him," he said.

Dr. Purdy was similarly anavied in analthing

professional caution.

Dr. Purdy was similarly guarded in speaking about the pie, although he asserted on Saturda night that there was no doubt that the pie had contained the deadly poison, since the four person who ate of it were all sick, while Mr. B. C. Wheeler and the servant who had not caten of it the servant being out of the house, were not sick Yesterday, however, he said that he had no means of the catenotic contains the servant being out of the house, were not sick Yesterday, however, he said that he had no means of the catenotic contains the servant servant

the servant being out of the house, were not sick. Yesterday, however, he said that he had no means of determining what the irritant matter was that had produced the symptoms with which Mr. Georgo Wheeler died. He had, he said, been entirely occupied with trying to pull his patients through their sickness, and had paid no attention to the circumstances attendant upon their being taken sick.

Dr. White, when questioned, was equally cautious. He said that he and his wife, who had treated the family before Dr. Purdy was called in, had been unable to determine what the irritant was since the framily before Dr. Purdy was called in, had been unable to determine what the irritant was since the frat effects had passed over and the secondary stage had already been reached when they were summoned. They had therefore been unable to make any different dispnosis of the cases than Dr. Purdy had make when he was called three days l-ter. The illness had begun on Sunday night, and he and his wife had not been called upon until Monday evening, and by that time the irritant, whatever it was, had been absorbed into the tissues.

"What treatment did you adopt?" he was saked. "Homeopathic treatment entirely. It was perfectly harmiess treatment. We gave such alleviations as possible, principally milk and eggs, and we gave small doses of morphine which we found gave temporary relief."

"Did you give the morphine in sub-cutancous injections?"

"No. I was swallowed. We found that in each

jections?"

"No. It was swallowed. We found that in each case it was impossible to keep anything on the stomach even a lew minutes, but we persevered in the treatment, and also administered nutritive enemus."

"Did you consult with other physicians?"

"Yes; we had the best counsel. Dr. Joslyn advised with us in the case and approved our treatment."

"Have you consulted with Dr. Purdy at all since "No." This approve

"Have you consulted with Dr. Purdy at all since he took the case."

"No." This answer was expected as a matter of course, as Dr. Purdy is an silopathist.

Mr. Schinkel, the baker, was also present at the autopsy, and looked on gravely while Dr. Miller was at work. He said nothing, however, and Dr. Miller did not question him, but the reporter did.

"Have you heard of any other cases in the neighborhood in which there has been any sickness tollowing the cating of the pies?" he asked.

"No," said Mr. Schinkel.

"No," said Mr. Schinkel.

"Would there not have been likely to be other cases if the pie really contained poison? There was no difference in the manufacture of this pie from that of the other pies in the same batch, so far as you know, I presume?"

Mr. Schinkel looked still more grave and hesitated a moment. Then he said, "I do not know that it is yet established that the pie was the cause of the sickness or that it came from my place."

"It is it not a tact that you—"

"I really do not care to say anything at all," said Mr. Schinkel, firmly, "until this matter is settled. There have been a good many false stories told about the thing and I don't want to have any more started."

He kept his word and said no more, though asked what the false stories were.

The tragedy will doubtless open up the old ques-

what the false stories were.

A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION.

The tragedy will doubtless open up the old ques-

tion, so often discussed, of how the bakers work and what materials and utensils they use. The fact, admitted by Mr. Schinkel on Saturday night, that he uses a copper fettle, in which he mixes certain preparations, furnishes a clew which the betseaved family have accepted as a perfect explanation if the whole matter. Whether this hypothesis will be established or not reunalist to be seen, but an explanation which seems rational and simple was offered by an experienced cook who had read the story in yesterday's HERALD.

"It is very likely," said this cook, "that if Mr. Schinkels uses a copper kettle in which to mix the ingredients of his meriague pies the pirticular pie which Mrs. Wheeler bought was made of the last of the risture remaining in the kettle. Very likely there was just enough left to make that one pie, and the kettle was geraped out clean. If it was scraped out with a metal spoon or ladle, very likely some of the copper or some deposit on the copper was scraped out with it and entered into the pie. It may not have been in contact with the lemon until the cream was placed upon the lemon in the pie and the poison may have formed in the baking."

Whatever the fact may be, and whether the pie came from Mr. Schinkel's or not, it is certain that he ree's pan fully the weight of the reflections that have been cast upon him.

The official investigation by the Coroner will begin to-day, when a jury is to be summoned, who will view the body and take testimony. In view of the importance and the per uhar mature of the case it has been determined to select a jury of professional men, who will be able to understand the full bearings of the disease and of its treatment. Nothing will probably be done to-day beyond the viewing of the body, as the analyses, which must be made before anything can be definitely settied, will take some weeks to complete. It will be necessary, since no funds for the purpose are at the disposal of the Coroners, to make application to the District Attorney for authority. This is to be done

BASEBALL.

The clubs belonging to the League have been filling up their rinks for the season of 1880. The following, which is official, shows the extent to date in which contracts have been signed between clubs

and players:—

Boston.—Bond, pitcher; Powers, catcher; Morrell, first baseman; Burdock, second baseman; Sutton, third baseman; Hanck, short stop; Jones, left fielder; Foley, centre fielder; John O'Rourke, right fielder; Foley, centre fielder; John O'Rourke, right fielder, with Brown, reserve catcher, and James O'Rourke, reserve right fielder.

BUFFALO.—Poorman, pitcher; Crowley, catcher; Walker, first baseman; Esterbrook, short stop; Horning, left fielder; Radbourne, centre fielder; McGunnigle, right fielder and change pitcher, and Rowe, reserve catcher.

CHICAGO.—Goldsmith, pitcher; Flint, catcher; Anson, first baseman; Quest, second baseman; Williamson, third baseman; Burns, short stop; Dalrymple, left fielder; Goro, centre fielder, and Kelly, right fielder.

CHICANOATI.—W. White, pitcher; Clapp, catcher; Manning, first baseman; Peters, second baseman; Dorscher, third baseman; S. Wright, short stop; Leonard, left fielder; Mansell, centre fielder; Hotaling, right fielder, and Smith, reserve short stop.

CLEVELAND.—McCormick, pitcher; Kennedy, catcher; Fhillips, first baseman; Pitcher; Kennedy, catcher; Fhillips, first baseman; Pitcher; Kennedy, catcher; Fhillips, first baseman; Hankinson, short stop; Haulon, left fielder; Gilligan, centre fielder; Schaffer, right fielder, with Richmond in reserve.

PROVIDENCE.—Ward, pitcher; Gross, catcher;

short stop; Haulon, left fielder; Gilligan, centre fielder; Schaffer, right fielder, wite Richmond in reserve.

PROVIDENCE.—Ward, pitcher; Gross, catcher; Start, first baseman; Farrell, second baseman; McGeary, third baseman; George Wright, short stop; York, left fielder; Hines, contre fielder; Dorgan, right fielder and change catcher, with Bradley as reserve pitcher or catcher.

TROY.—Larkin, pitcher; Harbridge, catcher; Coggswell, first baseman; Caskins, short stop; Dickerson, left fielder; Evans, centre fielder; Cassidy, right fielder; with Welch and Holbert as reserve pitcher and catcher, respectively.

The rumor of trouble between the Boston Baseball Club and its president is authoritatively denied.

The position of first baseman in the Cincinnati club is still vacant. The management are at present corresponding with Murnan on the subject.

On returning from California, a few days since, "Ai" Spaulding denied that the Chicago and Cincinnati clubs had played for \$1,000 at San Francisco.

The pitcher and catcher of the California Club, sweeney and O'Brien, have returned to Philadelphia for several months' rost and recuperation.

The Springfield Club, belonging to the National Association, have secured the services of Mr. J. C. Chapman, of Brooklyn, as manager for the season of 1880.

The following players have signed contracts with a secund the services.

The following players have signed contracts with the Albany Club, champions of the National Association, for the season of 1880:—Critchley, pitcher; Keenan, catcher; Tobin, first baseman; Fulmer, second baseman; Burke, third baseman; Say, short stop; Pike, centre fleider; Dorgan, right fleider, and change catcher; Keefe, left fielder, and change bitcher.

change catcher; Keefe, left fielder, and change pitcher.

The amateurs who composed the St. Louis Club of 1879 have been urged to join the League.

Manager Bancroft has secured contracts with the following team to play in Cuba during the winter. They sail on Saturday, the 13th of December, viz:
Folcy, pitcher; Bennett, catcher; Sullivan, first baseman; Creamer, second baseman; Creamer, second baseman; Witney, third baseman; Irwin, short stop; Wood, left fielder; Knight, centre fielder; Ricily, right fielder.

VACHTING NOTE.

Steam vacht Skylark, N.Y.Y.C., Mr. Alexander Taylor, returning from an easterly cruise passed th HERALD Telegraph station at Whitestone yesterday

afternoon cruising westward. BLACKWELL'S ISLAND ABUSES.

AN EX-PRISONER'S DESCRIPTION OF LIFE IN CITY INSTITUTION-EVILS OF THE WORKS

HOUSE SYSTEM. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-As the HERALD is now taking such a deep interest

in the management of the lumatic asylums on Biack-well's and Ward's islands I, an exprisoner, will call the attention of the public to the managem the Workhouse for poor, unfortunate women, who from drink and other vices, are sent daily to the so-called institution "for charities and rection." In the first place, many theft. They are all thrown together in common workbouses, to which are frequently sent innocent prisoners, perhaps arrested for drinking on the false charges of ignorant policemen, who take them in whon overcome by exhaustion. Many of them are hard working, ignorant beings, who, thrown out of employment, are committed for a month for correction, and are forced to associate daily and hourly and sleep in crowded cells with

month for correction, and are forced to associate daily and hourly and sleep in crowded cells with some poor creatures who are so deprayed they know not right from wrong, not infrequently indulging in obscene and disgusting conversation, and often threatening the lives of those who do not agree with them. The matrons, from having so mixed a class of prisoners to deal with, are hard and exacting, showing no sympathy, and they assume a tyrannical bearing to all alike, saying that no innocent women wound be sent there.

The "State Lady," as she is called, makes her visits occasionally, and thinks the food is good enough for them, when it is served as though they were animals, and often so bad as to cause riots and desperation.

The women are worked hard and half tod. Some of the keepers are too ignorant to appreciate the capacities of their prisoners; they are overbearing and threaten black cells to those who often are too delicate and feeble from poverty to do hard work. I suggest that if a woman is bad enough to steal the Penitentiary is the place for her; that if she is committed for drinking—and arrests; while in the worst stages—who should be placed in the hospital until she is herself again. Women who are so unfortunate as to be committed upon false charges should not be thrown in such bad company.

The doctors' visits to these poor unfortunates are all that redeems the institution—these and the services on Sundays of all denominations. The visitors have no chance of speaking to the prisoners unless ticy have a special permit, and often they are unwelcome guests in the workrooms when they can do no good by looking upon the scene. I promised to expose the crucky, and determined to make this statement if I were imprisoned for lite for doing it. I now venture to ofer my opinions, and in all sincerity and truth I have written them. I sign the name by which I was committed. Respectfully,

ROMAGNIA IN JERSEY CITY.

Frank Romagnia, the Italian violinist who was aprested on Thursday in Montreal for the killing of the schoolboy George Estey, in Jersey City, on Friday, the 7th inst., arrived at Police Headquarters, Jersey City, yesterday morning, at seven o'clock, in the custody of Detective John O'Neil and Chief Murphy. Romagnia is only nineteen years of age, of slight build and quite boyish in appearance. During the drive to Jersey City he talked freely with Chief Murphy about the case and made no attempt to deny his connection with it. He said that on the day of the assault he was playing in Union street, Jersey City Heights, with his partner, Cardona, when a number of boys from the Union Street Public School began peiting them with pieces of coal. He picked up a small piece and fired it into the crowd. It struck Estey, who fell to the ground. He says he did not aim at Estey or any boy in particular, and after seeing the boy fail he ran away. After reaching his home in Elm street, this city, he heard that two officers were looking for him and he fied to Boston, and then to Canada, Cardona, his partner, followed him and notified the Montreal police of his whereabouts, after which he was arrested.

Barrillo, the Italian arrested in Philadelphia on suspicion of being the murderer, is confined in a separate cell in Police Readquarters, and will probably be released to-day. the custody of Detective John O'Neil and Chief